

Bulbs to Plant Now for Winter Flowers

By CARLETON B. BELL

Right now is the time to plant bulbs of many Spring and Winter flowering varieties of bulbous plants. There are many different kinds of bulbs which, if planted now, will flower from January on till the middle of next Summer. Chief among these are Anemone, Ranunculus, Daffodils, Freesias, Gladiolus, Dutch Iris, Ixias, Lillies, Narcissus, Tulips, and Watsonias.

Some of these bulbs, especially Anemone and Ranunculus, will produce a large number of flowers from a single bulb and with a minimum of care. These flowers are of French origin but will grow easily anywhere in this country. In Southern California they should be planted in the Fall and up until February 1st. They produce flowers about the size and shape of the Shirley Poppies but have much better substance and keeping qualities. They are even shipped from here to as far east as Philadelphia in commercial quantities. They will easily keep here from one week to ten days. They have stems from 8 inches to 12 inches long and the color range includes all shades of red, purple, pink, yellow and some white. They also come both double and single.

Before planting the soil should be well prepared by thorough spading and breaking up of all clods. Any fertilizer that is in the soil should be leached out with thorough watering so that no heat in the ground from the fertilizer. Plant the bulbs with the claws or small points downward either in beds or rows in full sun. They should be planted not more than 2 1/2 inches deep and about 4 inches or 5 inches apart in the rows. If the ground is covered with half an inch of well rotted fine cow manure the best results will be obtained. After planting saturate the ground and water every few days. You will not have to wait long to see them breaking through. If planted now you should have blooms by January first and from then on for three or four months.

After the bulbs are through blooming and the plant has begun to die they should be dug and stored in a cool dry place until another fall. Divisions may be taken from the old bulb. All bulbs will bloom regardless of size but best results are obtained from medium sized young bulbs. It is not uncommon to get as many as 60 blooms from one good bulb. Both Anemones and Ranunculus should be planted as their requirements as to care and location are the same and their range of colors are entirely different.

Daffodils and Narcissus are of the same family, in fact they cannot be separated except when in bloom. A large bulb will produce several flower stalks and each flower stalk produces a new bulb for the next year. They should be planted at any time from now till January 1st. Daffodils are the large "cup and saucer" type; Narcissus are of the familiar "paper white or Chinese lily" type. They should all be planted 5 inches to 6 inches deep and may be placed quite close together if it is intended to take them up next spring. If not they should be planted about 6 inches apart to allow for growth of the new bulbs. They should be taken up at least every fourth year. They need very little attention other than at planting and picking time.

This is also the time to plant the beautiful Regal Lily that makes such a wonderful showing when in bloom among the shrubbery and perennial plants, especially among the tall blue Delphinium. There is no bulb that likes manure in the soil but this is especially true of lilies. Manure in the soil means a dead lily bulb. A little later the beautiful, and easily grown, Tiger Lily bulbs will be available. Lily bulbs are available for only a short time in their season and the sooner they are planted after being dug the sooner they return to normal growth and the better the final results. All lilies demand a light, perfectly drained soil and do better if the surface is shaded with a heavy mulch of leaves or similar material. They are planted from 4 inches to 12 inches deep, according to variety. As lilies do best when allowed to remain undisturbed in the same bed year after year, it pays to prepare their bed carefully and thoroughly.

Gladiolus bulbs that have been dug three months or more are properly cured and ready to be planted and will produce a very welcome addition to your early bulb flowers next Spring. Their treatment when planted at this time is not different from at any other time.

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A. Atwater Kent, president of the Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company, today issued the following statement:

"Varied rumors seem to be afloat that I am contemplating a merger with one or another of several radio manufacturing concerns. "Once and for all, I wish to state that there is absolutely no basis whatsoever for such reports. I have conducted my own business for more than twenty-seven years and I contemplate no change in my policy.

"I have a fine organization. I enjoy managing my factory and nothing has occurred that would lead me even to consider joining forces with any other company. I have no idea of either dividing the direction of my business or the responsibilities which it involves.

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